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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC 1st Volkspolizei Bereitschaft of Land Brandenburg in Potsdam

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EVALUATION C-2

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A prior to late March 1950

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE PREPARED

25 August 1950

REFERENCES (Police) [REDACTED]

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

*81d  
147*

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. The 1st VP Bereitschaft of Land Brandenburg was stationed at the Kaserne of the former Panzerjaegerabteilung 3, Stalinallee 23-25, Potsdam (N 53/Z 63). The Bereitschaft, an artillery unit, had 80 officers and 735 police and was organized into a headquarters, three Kommandos, and one Sonderkommando composed of a mobile radio section of about 30 police and a computation section of equal strength.
2. The officers of the unit included: Oberpolizeirat Ritter, (fmu), CO of Bereitschaft, about 30 years old, 170 cm tall, a former maintenance technical sergeant of the German Army; Polizeirat Bauer, (fmu), PK-Leiter, about 45 years old, 178 cm tall, a former inmate of a concentration camp and veteran anti-fascist; Oberpolizeirat Gevoth, (fmu), Soviet instructor, about 30 years old, 185 cm tall, a major in the Soviet Army; Mikhailoff, alias Mikhselis, (fmu), LVD officer, without police rank, about 22 years old, 165 cm tall; Polizeirat Weber, (fmu), director of training, a former German lieutenant colonel; Oberkommissar Rolf Lose, administrative and supply officer, 23 years old, 180 cm tall; Kommissar Arndt, (fmu), CO of 1st Kommando, 30 years old, 170 cm tall; Oberkommissar Reichelt, (fmu), CO of 2d Kommando, about 27 years old; and Kommissar Fischer, (fmu), CO of 3rd Kommando, about 35 years old, a manual laborer.
3. The armament of the VP Bereitschaft included two German medium SFG-18 type 150-mm howitzers, one light 105-mm howitzer of LFH-18 type, two heavy SIG-33 type 150-mm infantry guns, one German 75-mm AT gun, seven Soviet 76.2-mm AT guns, 10 model 34 light machine guns, about 50 model 44 submachine guns, and 40 model 34 submachine guns, 210 98-K carbines, twenty-five 88 carbines, about 40 model 08 and 38 pistols and fourteen 7-65-mm pistols. The Bereitschaft had two trucks, six passenger cars and four motorcycles, and was to be equipped with one prime mover for each gun and 16 additional trucks.
4. Basic infantry training was almost completed in late March 1950, but had to be repeated because of the current induction of recruits. Drilling was done in the barracks yard, tactical exercises at the Dornstedter Feld, and field exercises at the Doeberitz (N 53/Z 65) troop training grounds.

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2

25X1A

In artillery training, theoretical instruction and practical exercises were given equal treatment. In late March 1950, training subjects included sighting and aiming exercises, and the adjustment of a battery. The training of radio and computation sections had started in late March 1950.

5. The political indoctrination attempted to create resentment among the young police personnel against the Western Powers. As a result they are unable to see what is true and what is not true, and slowly are willing to accept the views of their PK leaders. About 80 percent of the personnel were members of the FDJ, and about 100 police were members of the SED. The majority of the personnel came from Saxony, and some came from the Mark Brandenburg. The average age of the police was 20 years and that of the officers, including the Polizeimeisters, 25 years.
6. The Bereitschaft, which is the Bereitschaft stationed in Potsdam-Eiche, totaled 250 police when it was transferred from Grossenhain (N 52/101) to Kuestrin-Kietz (O 53/V 66) in the early fall of 1949. It was brought to its present strength of 75 officers and 735 police in late October 1949 and was transferred to Potsdam on 17 March 1950. The quarters in Kuestrin were not reoccupied by VP personnel but by Soviet troops. \*

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\* Comment. The transfer from Kuestrin-Kietz to Potsdam of the 1st VP-Bereitschaft was previously reported. See (Police) [REDACTED]

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